

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 to 40 (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) An alkaline, aqueous cleaning composition which comprises:

- (a) 0.1 to 50% by weight of detergent builder selected from the group comprising pyrophosphoric acid and polyphosphoric acid and salts thereof;
- (b) 0.1 to 20% by weight of a coupling agent consisting essentially of an oxygenated organic solvent;
- (c) 0.1 to 10% by weight of a fatty acid alkyl ester and/or dibasic ester;
- (d) 0.1 to 10% surfactant; and, optionally,
- (e) a minor amount of one or more additives.

42. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, further comprising one or more of the following additives: a colouring agent; a perfume; a biocide; a preservative; an anti-septic; and/or an anti-static agent.

43. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41 further comprising benzalkonium chloride.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of a liquid, water-soluble oxygenated organic solvent.

46. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of an ether of an alkylene glycol.

47. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of a propylene glycol ether.

48. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (c) consists essentially of a C₁₆ to C₂₂ fatty acid alkyl ester.

49. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (c) consists essentially of a C₁₆-C₁₈ fatty acid (C₁-C₄) alkyl ester.

50. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of a low-foaming surfactant capable of keeping component (c) in solution in the composition.

51. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of an ether of a fatty alcohol.

52. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of an ethoxylated alcohol.

53. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41 in the form of a solution.

54. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41, which is substantially free from halogenated surfactants and solvents; and/or ammonia; ammonium and other nitrogen-based ingredients; and/or silicates and other depositing inorganics.

55. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41 having a pH in the range of from 8 to 12.

56. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41 having a pH of 10.

57. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 41 comprising in the range of from 60 to 90% w/w water.

58. (Previously Presented) A concentrate composition suitable for dilution with, in the range of from, 1 to 8 parts water to prepare a composition according to claim 41.

59. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning a surface which method comprises applying to the surface an alkaline cleaning composition as defined in claim 41, in an amount sufficient to wet the surface.

60. (Previously Presented) The use of a composition according to claim 41 in the preparation of an aqueous solution for cleaning a surface, such as carpet, upholstery, textiles, furnishings, metal and glass.

61. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a composition according to claim 41, which method comprises bringing the components into intimate physical admixture to form an aqueous solution or weak emulsion.

62. (Previously Presented) An aqueous alkaline cleaning composition consisting essentially of:

- (a) pyrophosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid, or a salt thereof;
- (b) an ether of an alkylene glycol;
- (c) a C₁₆-C₂₂ fatty acid alkyl ester;
- (d) an ether of a fatty alcohol; and optionally,
- (e) a colouring agent; perfume; biocide; preservative; anti-septic; and/or anti-static agent.

63. (Currently Amended) A two-part cleaning composition suitable for cleaning carpets, which composition comprises:

- (a) an aqueous alkaline cleaning composition comprising
 - (i) 0.1 to 50% by weight of detergent builder selected from the group comprising pyrophosphoric acid and salts thereof;
 - (ii) 0.1 to 20% by weight of coupling agent;
 - (iii) 0.1 to 10% by weight of fatty acid alkyl esters and/or dibasic esters;

(iv) 0.1 to 10% surfactant; and, optionally,

(v) a minor amount of one or more additives; and

(b) a neutralising composition;

whereby, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is in the range of from 5.5 to 8.5.

64. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 63, wherein the alkaline cleaning composition (a) consists essentially of:

(i) pyrophosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid, or a salt thereof;

(ii) an ether of an alkylene glycol;

(iii) a C₁₆-C₂₂ fatty acid alkyl ester;

(iv) an ether of a fatty alcohol; and optionally,

(v) a colouring agent; perfume; biocide; preservative; anti-septic; and/or anti-static agent.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is about 7.5.

67. (Previously Presented) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition comprises an aqueous solution of a non-oxidising acid.

68. (Previously Presented) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition (b) is in the form of an aqueous solution of one part acid to, in the range of from, 40 to 70 parts water.

69. (Previously Presented) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition (b) is in the form of an aqueous solution of one part acid to 60 parts water.

70. (Previously Presented) A method suitable for cleaning a carpet surface, which method comprises:-

- (a) applying to the surface an alkaline cleaning composition in an amount sufficient to wet the surface; and
- (b) mechanically buffing the surface with a pad soaked in a neutralising composition in an amount sufficient such that the pH of the combined compositions is in the range of from 5.5 to 8.5.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising composition is heated to a temperature in the range of from 50° to 95°C, prior to buffing the surface.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising

composition is heated to a temperature in the range of from 70° to 85°C, prior to buffing the surface.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the alkaline cleaning composition comprises a water-based cleaning composition as defined in claim 41.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, using the two-part cleaning composition according to claim 63.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, in which the ratio of neutralising composition to cleaning composition is greater than one.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, in which the ratio of neutralising composition to cleaning composition is in the range of from 2 to 4:1, respectively.

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising composition is heated in a tank prior to application to the surface.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the pad is heated prior to application to the surface.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the pad is heated by immersion in the neutralising composition prior to application to the surface.

80. (Cancelled)

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 59, in which the surface being cleaned comprises carpet fibers.

83. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 47, wherein said propylene glycol ether consists essentially of propylene glycol N-butyl ether.